

\*(Indicates, please stand as able)

Greeting

Prelude "Be Thou My Vision" Carol Stewart

\*\*Call to Worship

God welcomes you with compassion.

**We come, aware of our sin, of all the ways we miss the mark.**

God surrounds you with grace and forgiveness, reconciling you to God and one another.

**We come, longing for restoration, to be made new.**

God embraces you with love, reuniting us with God and one another.

**We come, thirsting for reconciliation, to draw close to God and one another.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" (v. 1,2,4) UMH #269

Scripture Reading Psalm 51:1-12 (CEB)

Ministry of Music "In the Garden" Chancel Choir

Lenten Message "Repentance & Reconciliation" Pastor Jeff Bandy

Response Hymn "More Love to Thee, O Christ" (v. 1-3) UMH #453

Prayer of Confession

On this first day of Lent we pause, look within, and examine our consciences.

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Where we have neglected prayer, been apathetic in worship, found reasons to avoid generosity, or lacked compassion:

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Where we have colluded in the oppression of those who become invisible in their suffering, and ignored on the streets:

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Where anxiety has eroded the gift of Your peace, and where we have cared too much about what others think:

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

As Lent begins, know that God understands how we struggle to stay open and compassionate. The invitation is not to focus on our inadequacies but on God's gift of grace and love which transforms our hearts and minds. That gift is given to us again, here and now. Be encouraged.

**Sustain in us, O God, a willing spirit to return to the joy of our salvation as we journey together through the season of Lent. Amen.**

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Eternal God, you created us from the dust of the earth, and to dust we one day return. As these ashes are placed on our foreheads, let them be a catalyst to draw us back to you.

**Bless us with your steadfast love, for you are slow to anger and rejoice when the lost are found.**

**All: Amen.**

\*\*Closing Hymn "Lord, I Want to be a Christian" (v. 1,2,4) UMH #402

Sending Forth

Pastor: Created from dust, held together by God's extravagant love, we turn away from sin, and leave today embracing God's love.

Imposition of Ashes

# ASH WEDNESDAY



## Repentance & Reconciliation



**Rev. Jeff Bandy**

Office Hours M, T, TH 9:00am-3:00pm & by Appt.

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

[pastorjeff@fcum.org](mailto:pastorjeff@fcum.org) ♦ [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)

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**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

**March 5, 2025**

**Worship Team**

Liturgist

Sandy Pramer

Organist

Carol Stewart

Chancel Choir Director

Melody Kelley

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